REMARKS

Claims 1-47 stand rejected as anticipated by *Brandt et al.* (US 6,714,979). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, an improved method for accessing and managing data stored on a mainframe database system is provided. As described, e.g., at page 2 of the application, in the past, that data was obtained from the mainframe database system by printing reports to a paper printer. The person requesting those printed documents was required to collect and assemble the printed documents, and then filed those documents in a file cabinet after obtaining the desired information. Some so-called legacy mainframe database systems were operated to provide printed reports of selected information stored on those systems, but were not considered readily adaptable to a relatively paper-free environment where printed reports are eliminated or significantly reduced in number and content, and where individual users can easily obtain desired information in various formats.

The foregoing and other problems are overcome, according to exemplary embodiments, with a method in which reports for customer requests are generated based on the customer data received in a mainframe database system. Summaries of those reports are provided to a printer emulator, instead of going to a printer as in the prior art. Selected data from those report summaries next are imported into a spreadsheet, which in turn is provided to at least one terminal where the spreadsheet contents are available as needed. As the specification points out, the "at least one terminal" to which this spreadsheet is provided are, in an exemplary embodiment, one or more PCs accessing the

spreadsheet information from a file server available through a local area network or the Internet.

According to exemplary embodiments, the mainframe database system "sees" a conventional printer when, in fact, it is supplying the generated reports to the printer emulator. Reports thus are generated from customer data received on the mainframe database system without printing, handling, or storing actual printed reports as in the prior art. Selected data is then imported from the report summaries into a spreadsheet, where that selected data is provided to at least one terminal.

Claim 1, for example, recites a method for managing customer service request reports. The method comprises receiving customer data in a mainframe database system, generating a report for each of a plurality of customer requests based on the customer data in the mainframe database system, providing summaries of the reports to a printer emulator, importing selected data from the report summaries into a spreadsheet, and providing the spreadsheet to at least one terminal.

Brandt fails to disclose the step of providing report summaries to a printer emulator. The reference thus fails to anticipate the method of Claim 1. Moreover, that reference does not address or solve the problems confronted by the present Applicants, as discussed above.

The rejection contends that *Brandt* "[provides] summaries of the reports to a printer emulator, as a customer list", citing column 3, line 65 through column 4, line 12 of the reference. However, no mention of a printer emulator appears in the cited text. Instead, that passage discusses a system for allowing predetermined telephone customers to extract and receive call data. From the cited passage as well as the greater context of

the disclosure in *Brandt*, that reference discloses what looks like a ground-up design intended to replace data delivery systems, shown in Fig. 1 of *Brandt* and there designated "Prior Art", using legacy mainframe systems capable only of providing customers with periodic canned reports (column 3, lines 6-18 of *Brandt*). *Brandt* goes on to describe a system designed to avoid those prior-art problems, and *Brandt's* system thus has no need for generating reports based on customer data in a mainframe database system and providing summaries of those reports to a printer emulator. *Brandt* fails to disclose that step and, accordingly, fails to anticipate the Applicants' Claims 1 et al.

Claims 2-7 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and thus are novel over *Brandt* for the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claim 8 likewise defines a method including, among the other recited steps, providing summaries of reports, generated on a mainframe database system, to a printer emulator. Claim 8 thus defines an overall combination of method steps not anticipated by *Brandt*.

Claims 9-17 depend from Claim 8, directly or indirectly, and likewise are novel over *Brandt*. Moreover, Claims 13-15 require that each report generated on the mainframe database system include a unique report number, with that report number comprising a file name for each saved printed report *per* Claim 15. The rejection of Claim 13 contends that *Brandt*, specifically column 10, lines 46-49, includes a unique report number associated with each report. However, that cited passage merely states that a customer *request* submitted via an SSL connection is tagged with a unique identifier, after which the socket connection is closed. The client 50 then polls the application server 60 on a periodic basis until a response is ready, each poll occurring on

a new socket connection to the proxy. The "unique identifier" mentioned at line 48 in column 10 of *Brandt* thus identifies a customer request to the proxy, not a report (printed or otherwise) based on that request. Further, that "unique identifier" is used only to identify the request each time a poll occurs on a new socket connection to the proxy. Once the proxy responds with the resultant data, that "unique identifier" is not further mentioned and, presumably, vanishes as no longer needed. Accordingly, *Brandt* fails to disclose including a unique report number associated with each report, and Claims 13-15 are novel for that additional reason.

Dependent Claims 16 and 17 recite the further steps of connecting to the mainframe database base system with a terminal emulator, and wherein a single computer comprises the printer emulator and the terminal emulator. The rejection asserts that Web browser 50 of *Brandt* comprises the printer emulator and the terminal emulator, supposedly as disclosed at column 28, line 44 and at column 29, line 11. However, those portions of columns 28 and 29 only discuss the report viewer 215, and an applet providing a graphic user interface to analyze and display the data and reports supplied from the servers 400, 500, and the like. Please see column 28, lines 24-28. Nothing therein is seen to anticipate providing a terminal emulator connected to the mainframe database system, either separately from or combined with the printer emulator.

The method of Claim 18 also requires connecting to the mainframe database system with a terminal emulator. Moreover, the method of Claim 18 includes the step of assigning a unique report number for each generated report. As pointed out above, *Brandt* fails to disclose at least those steps, and that reference thus does not anticipate the

overall method of Claim 18. Dependent Claims 19-24 likewise are novel over that reference.

Dependent Claim 22 adds the further step of deleting the customer data from the mainframe database system. Claim 23 depends from Claim 22 and adds the step of deleting the generated reports from the mainframe database system, and dependent Claim 24 recites that each generated report is deleted after that report is selected and provided to the terminal emulator. The rejection contends that column 36, lines 20-22 of *Brandt* teach the steps added by Claims 22, 23, and 24. However, that passage mentions only a request to delete "a user-created report *from the user table*" (italics added), which is not deleting the customer data *from the mainframe database system* as defined in the overall method of Claims 22-24. *Brandt* discusses user-created reports at column 35, lines 26-42, and elsewhere, with those reports being created from data stored on the equivalent of a mainframe. Nothing in *Brandt* discloses deleting customer data from the mainframe.

Independent Claim 25 defines a system for managing certain reports. That system includes a mainframe database system, and a computer comprising a printer emulator and a terminal emulator in communication with the mainframe database system, among other elements in the recited combination. As previously pointed out, *Brandt* does not disclose a system including a printer emulator or a terminal emulator in connection with the mainframe database system receiving customer data. Accordingly, that reference does not anticipate Claim 25 or Claims 26-32 dependent (directly or indirectly) thereon.

Method Claim 18 recites, among other steps, generating a report from customer data on a mainframe database system, assigning a unique report number for reach generated report, generating a file comprising report numbers for the selected reports, and

providing that file to a printer emulator. *Brandt*, as discussed above, fails to anticipate the steps of providing the file to a printer emulator, and of generating a file comprising report numbers for selected reports. Further, that reference does not anticipate the step of connecting to the mainframe database system with a terminal emulator, also as recited in Claim 33. Accordingly, Claim 33, together with dependent Claims 34 -41, are novel over *Brandt*.

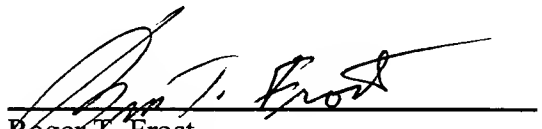
Moreover, Claims 39-41 recite the further step of deleting customer data from the mainframe database system. *Brandt* does not anticipate that further step, as pointed out above. Claims 39-41 are thus considered novel over *Brandt* for that further reason.

Claim 42 defines a system including a mainframe database system for receiving customer data, and a computer comprising a printer emulator and a terminal emulator in connection with the mainframe database system, in combination with other recited elements. With this claim system, the mainframe database system generates reports for plural customer usage submissions, at least one generated report is selected for printing, a file is generated comprising report numbers associated with those selected reports, and the file is printed to the printer emulator. Taking those elements along with the overall structural and functional limitations set forth in Claim 42, *Brandt* fails to anticipate for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, that claim and dependent Claims 43-47 are novel over *Brandt*.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and solicit a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD



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